

## MEMORANDUM

**SUBJECT:** Degradation of Explosives Being Warehoused Across the U.S.-Explo Systems Inc.,  
Camp Minden, Louisiana

**FROM:** Carl Edlund P.E., Region 6 Superfund Division Director  
Include FFEO

**TO:** Arthur A. Elkins, Jr. Inspector General

The purpose of this memorandum is to request that the EPA Office of the Inspector General (IG) inquire of the Department of Defense (DoD) IG regarding any findings pertaining to demilitarization of explosives. We would like information which may be available in the investigation of contracts between DoD and companies which are under contract to demilitarize explosives. Specifically, Region 6 and EPA Federal Facilities Enforcement Office would like to know if there are other businesses that have contracted with DoD to demilitarize explosives and what protocols DoD has in place to ensure the operations are adhering to contract requirements.

Region 6 is currently addressing the explosion risk posed by the Explo Site in Camp Minden, Louisiana. On October 15, 2012, an explosion of a storage magazine at Camp Minden, Louisiana (the former Louisiana Army Ammunition Plant), prompted attention from EPA Region 6, LSP, LDEQ, ATF, and national media.

The explosion destroyed a magazine and a trailer containing black powder and M6 propellant. As a result of the violations of improper storage observed during the inspection of the explosion, the Louisiana State Police (LSP) served a search warrant on Explo Systems, Inc. During the search, LSP identified 10 million pounds of unsecured and improperly stored explosives. From November 30, 2012, through December 7, 2012, people from the town of Doyline, Louisiana (i.e., approximately 400 homes) were evacuated due to the risk of explosion from the M6 propellant, and its unsafe proximity to the human population residing in Doyline, Louisiana. From November 28, 2012, through May 20, 2013, Explo employees under LSP oversight, secured and stored the M6 propellant in 97 magazines at the Site. Although the explosives are currently stored in magazines, the potential of explosion is still a risk.

The Region is concerned the situation as described at the Explo Site could be repeated at other facilities due to lack of adherence to DoD requirements, and protocols. We would like the EPA IG to also inquire of the DoD IG, if there are other current or former DoD/Army contracts for demilitarization of military munitions similar to the Explo contract and if the DoD OIG is conducting or plans to conduct an evaluation of the issue.

If you need any additional information or have questions, please feel free to contact my staff, Lydia Johnson at 214-665-8419.

The EPA is requesting assistance from the EPA IG as well as the DoD IG in an effort to locate and monitor other similar locations across the country where munitions may be improperly stored and have not been adequately monitored for degradation.